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MARVEL COMICS
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CYCLOPS
OF
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MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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Stan Lee Presents:

CYCLOPS "THE RETRIBUTION AFFAIR" 1

WRITER — Bob Harras
PENCILER — Ron Lim
INKER — Jeff Albrecht
LETTERER — Agustin Mas
COLORIST — Andy Yanchus

"MIND YOUR CONSCIENCE" — PART 7 OF 8
Captured by the sentinel, Master Mold, Cyclops must stop the Android's deadly retribution virus — a disease capable of wiping out almost all human life. But will Scott Summers succeed before the virus claims his life?

BLACK PANTHER "PANTHER'S QUEST" 9

WRITER — Don McGregor
PENCILER — Gene Colan
INKER — Tom Palmer
LETTERER — Joe Rosen
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

"THE OFFICIAL VERSION" — PART 11 OF 25
It is officially common knowledge that the Black Panther is in a black township in South Africa. A sadistic mercenary named Elmer "Sex 'N' Violence" Gore has thrown the Panther in barbed wire! The Panther's defense against soldiers has been reported on T.V. by Magistrate of Communications, Anton Pretorius. A security forces Sergeant named Eugene Van der Merwe has shot the Panther! And now he is trapped!

THE FALCON 17

WRITER — Fabian Nicieza
PENCILER — Dave Cockrum
INKER — Jim Sinclair
LETTERER — Agustin Mas
COLORIST — Mike Greenpoint

"THE FOREST FOR THE TREES"
Sam Wilson is a social worker whose daily struggle is to clean up the New York City streets. But even as the high-flying Falcon, he can do nothing to stop a family from tearing itself apart . . . or can he?

WHEELS OF WOLFPACK 25

WRITER — John Figueroa
PENCILER — Ron Wilson
INKER — Tex Blaisdel
LETTERER — Diana Albers
COLORIST — Evelyn Stein

"LADY JANE"
Chosen by an ancient force of good, the Ten, a group of South Bronx teenagers battle crime and an ancient evil group known as the Nine—they are the Wolfpack. He is their master of invention and tactics—he is Wheels. Today he must overcome bullets and high school to save and win the Lady Jane.

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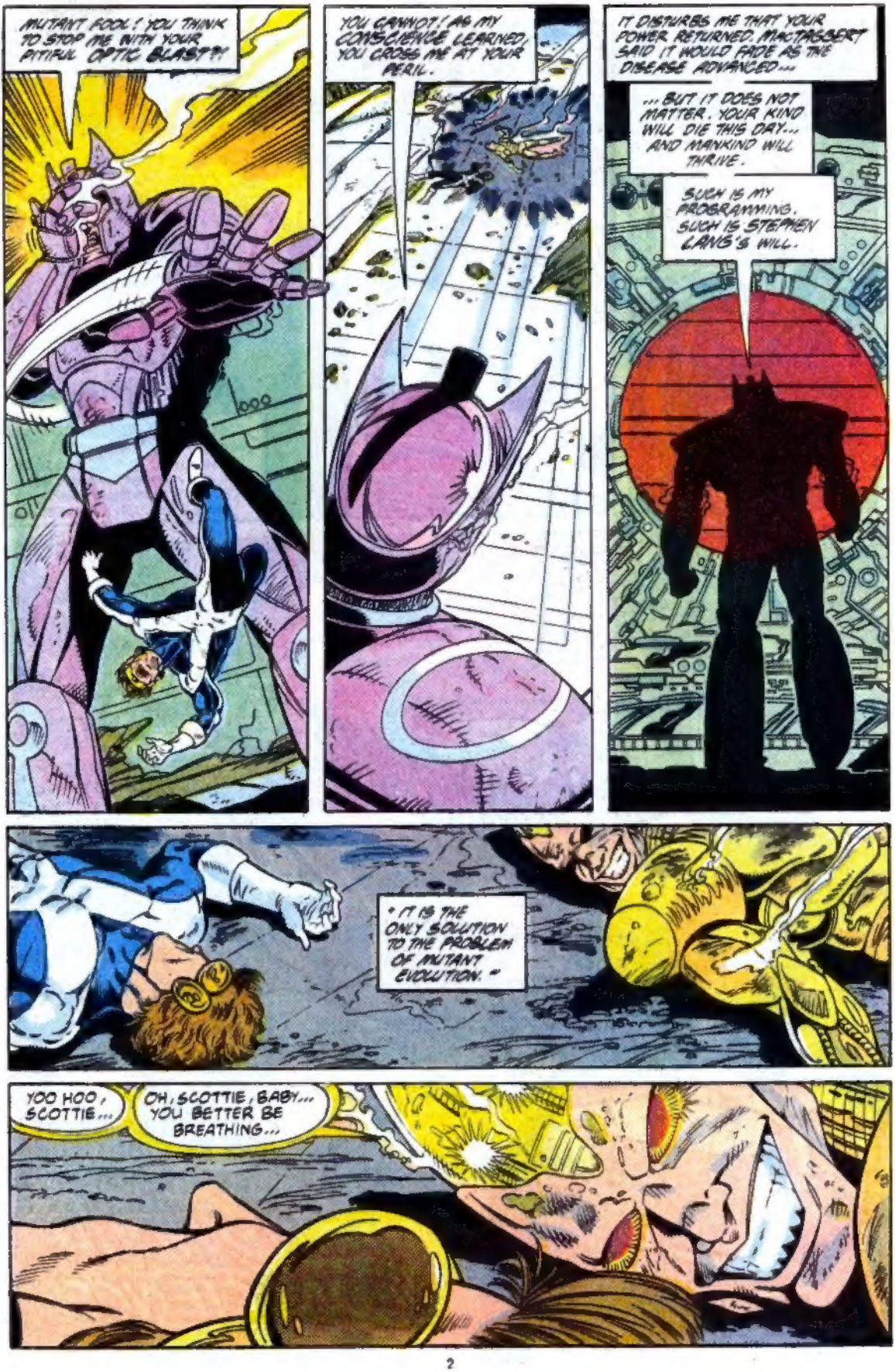
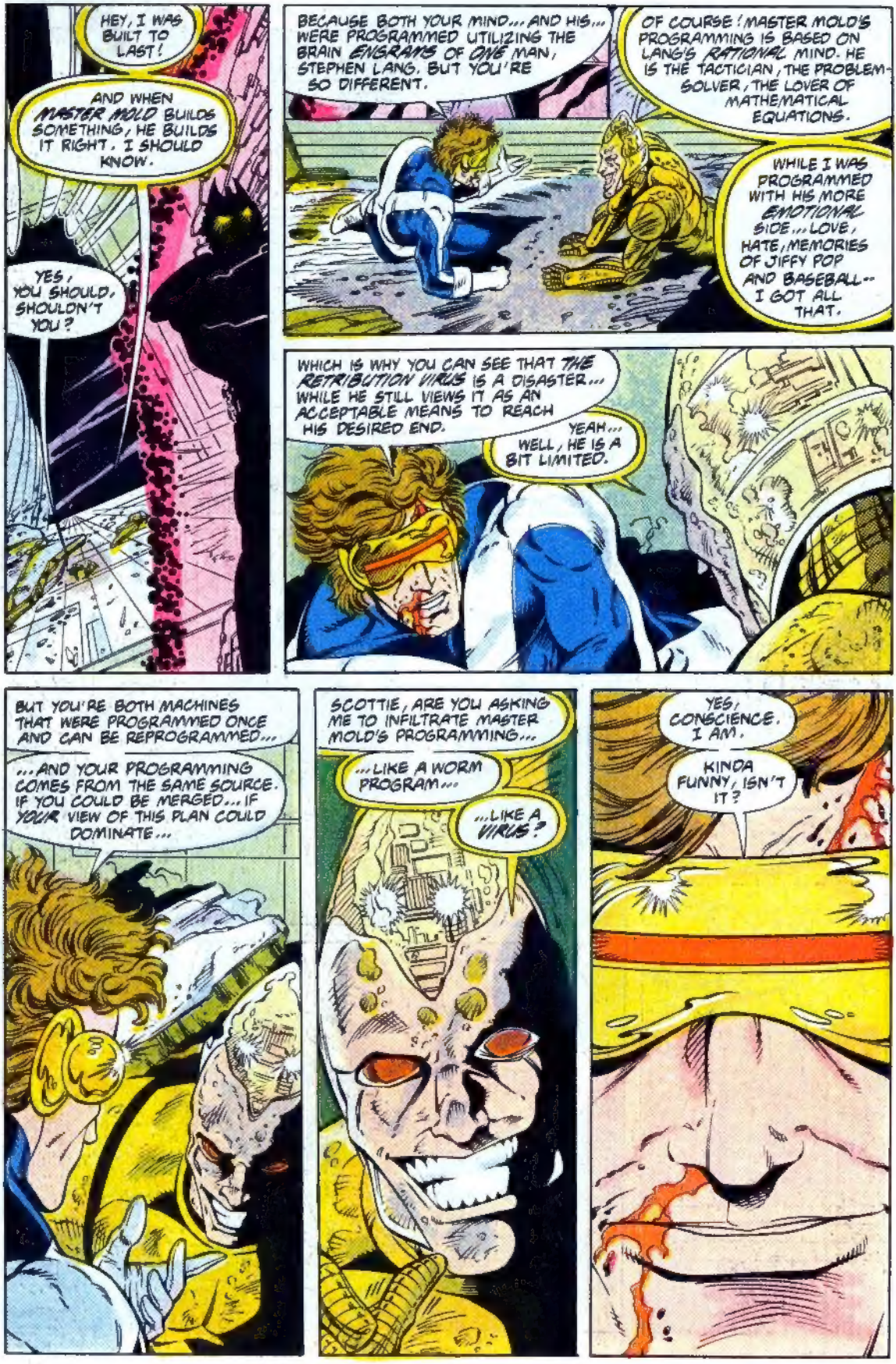
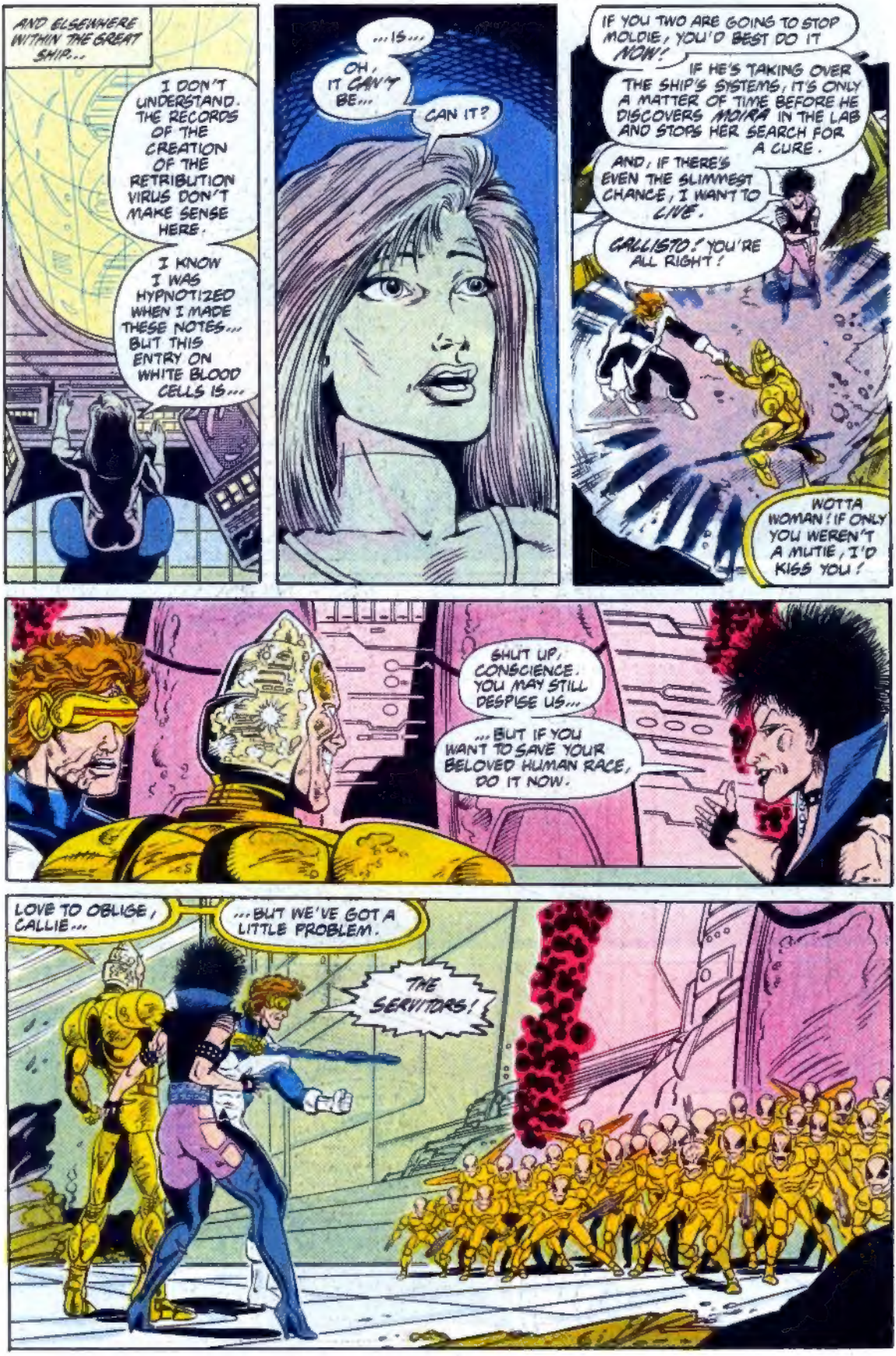
IT IS SAID THAT IN TIMES OF UTMOST DISTRESS AND HOPELESSNESS, A MAN MAY REACH DEEP WITHIN HIMSELF AND DISCOVER UNEXPECTED RESERVES OF STRENGTH...
THIS IS, INDEED, ONE OF THOSE TIMES...
...AS SCOTT SUMMERS, DYING PAINFULLY FROM A HEINOUS DISEASE THAT MAY SOON WIPE OUT ALL HUMANITY, SUMMONS FORTH HIS BIRTHRIGHT, HIS UNIQUE MUTANT POWER...
...AND UNLEASHES IT WITH A FURY BORN OF ANGRY DESPERATION.
SHRAK!
CYCLOPS
THE RETRIBUTION AFFAIR: PART VII
MIND YOUR CONSCIENCE

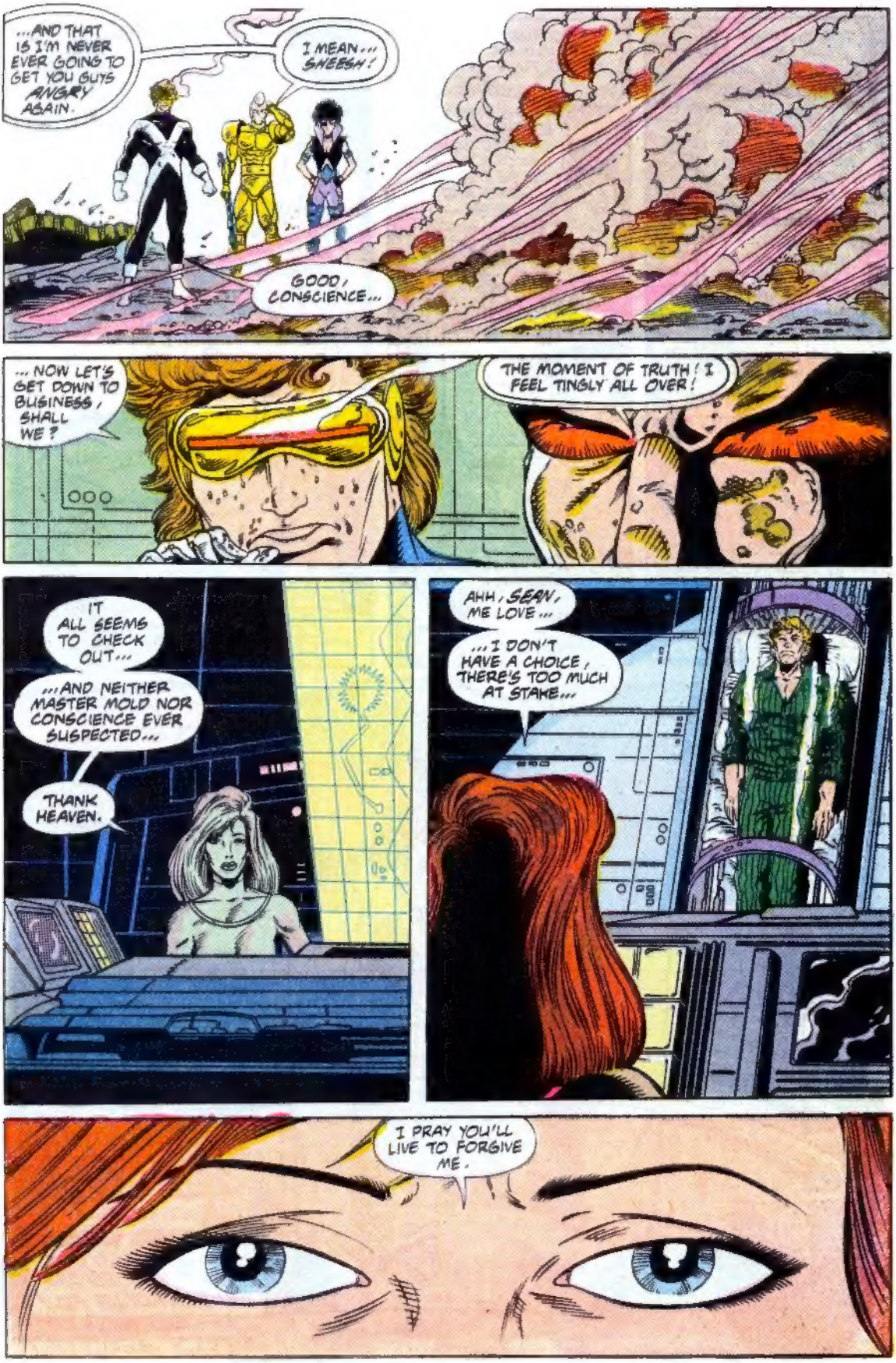

MUTANT FOOL! YOU THINK TO STOP ME WITH YOUR PITIFUL OPTIC BLAST?!
YOU CANNOT! AS MY CONSCIENCE LEARNED, YOU CROSS ME AT YOUR PERIL.
IT DISTURBS ME THAT YOUR POWER RETURNED. MACTAGGERT SAID IT WOULD FADE AS THE DISEASE ADVANCED...
...BUT IT DOES NOT MATTER. YOUR KIND WILL DIE THIS DAY... AND MANKIND WILL THRIVE.
SUCH IS MY PROGRAMMING. SUCH IS STEPHEN LANG'S WILL.
"IT IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF MUTANT EVOLUTION."
YOO HOO, SCOTTIE...
OH, SCOTTIE, BABY... YOU BETTER BE BREATHING...

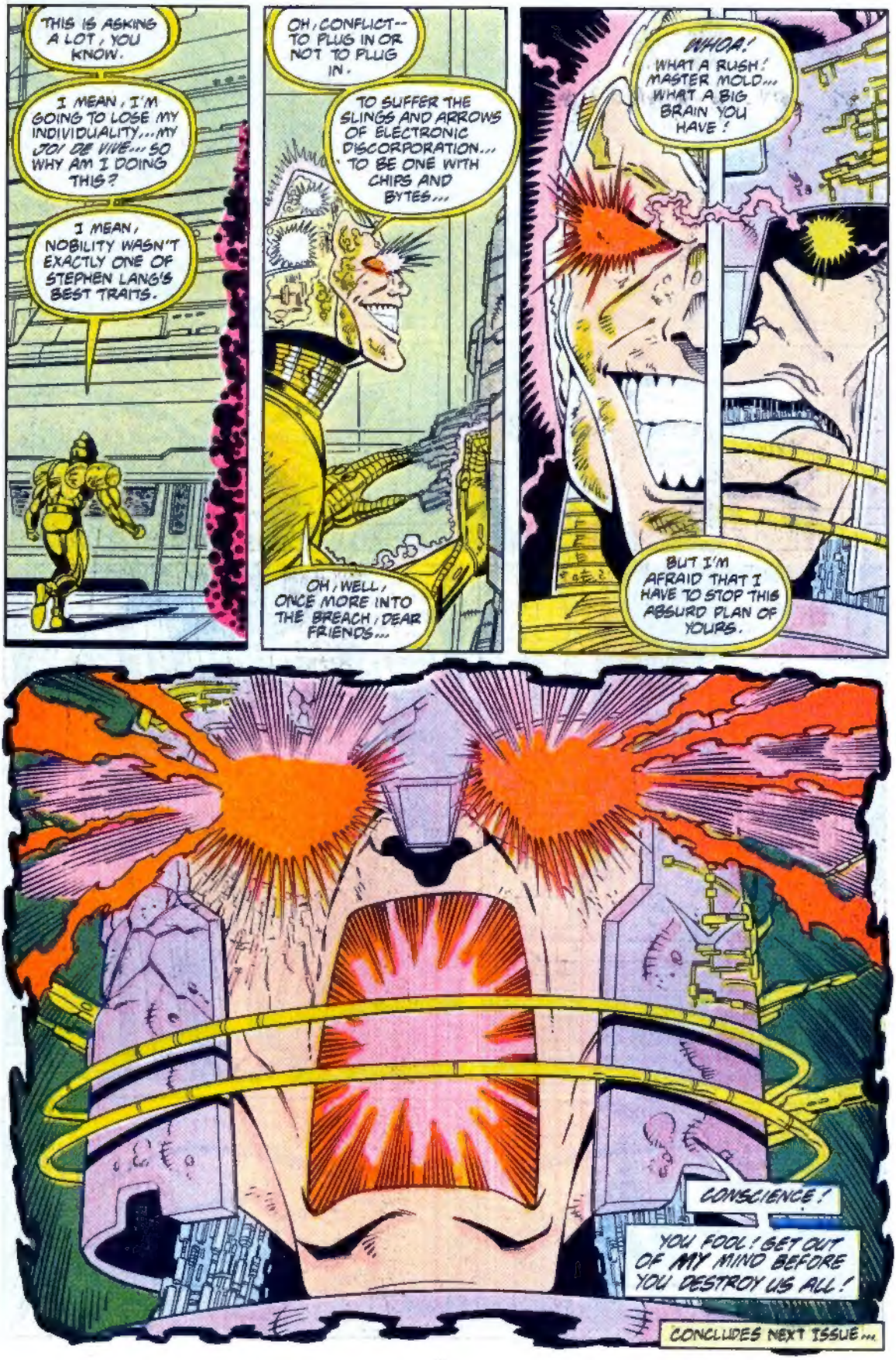
NOW, I SHALL INTEGRATE MY PERSONAL SYSTEMS WITH MY SHIP. I WILL MELD WITH IT... FOR THE FINAL COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN.
THE DEATH SPORES ARE TO BE RELEASED...
I WILL LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE!
I WILL CONTROL EVERY ASPECT OF THIS VESSEL.
COMPUTER, INITIATE LINK UP.
LINK-UP PROGRAM COMMENCING.
THIS SHIP WILL BE UNDER YOUR TOTAL CONTROL. YOU WILL BE ONE ENTITY...
OOH, SCOTTIE, THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE...
...DON'T BE DEAD, YOU MUTANT SWINE!
I DON'T DIE EASILY, CONSCIENCE...
...AND APPARENTLY NEITHER DO YOU.


HEY, I WAS BUILT TO LAST!
AND WHEN MASTER MOLD BUILDS SOMETHING, HE BUILDS IT RIGHT. I SHOULD KNOW.
YES, YOU SHOULD, SHOULDN'T YOU?
BECAUSE BOTH YOUR MIND... AND HIS... WERE PROGRAMMED UTILIZING THE BRAIN ENGRAMS OF ONE MAN, STEPHEN LANG. BUT YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT.
OF COURSE! MASTER MOLD'S PROGRAMMING IS BASED ON LANG'S RATIONAL MIND. HE IS THE TACTICIAN, THE PROBLEM-SOLVER, THE LOVER OF MATHEMATICAL EQUATIONS.
WHILE I WAS PROGRAMMED WITH HIS MORE EMOTIONAL SIDE... LOVE, HATE, MEMORIES OF JIFFY POP AND BASEBALL-- I GOT ALL THAT.
WHICH IS WHY YOU CAN SEE THAT THE RETRIBUTION VIRUS IS A DISASTER... WHILE HE STILL VIEWS IT AS AN ACCEPTABLE MEANS TO REACH HIS DESIRED END.
YEAH... WELL, HE IS A BIT LIMITED.
BUT YOU'RE BOTH MACHINES THAT WERE PROGRAMMED ONCE AND CAN BE REPROGRAMMED...
...AND YOUR PROGRAMMING COMES FROM THE SAME SOURCE. IF YOU COULD BE MERGED... IF YOUR VIEW OF THIS PLAN COULD DOMINATE...
SCOTTIE, ARE YOU ASKING ME TO INFILTRATE MASTER MOLD'S PROGRAMMING...
...LIKE A WORM PROGRAM...
...LIKE A VIRUS?
YES, CONSCIENCE. I AM.
KINDA FUNNY, ISN'T IT?


AND ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE GREAT SHIP...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE RECORDS OF THE CREATION OF THE RETRIBUTION VIRUS DON'T MAKE SENSE HERE.
I KNOW I WAS HYPNOTIZED WHEN I MADE THESE NOTES... BUT THIS ENTRY ON WHITE BLOOD CELLS IS...
...IS...
OH, IT CAN'T BE...
CAN IT?
IF YOU TWO ARE GOING TO STOP MOLDIE, YOU'D BEST DO IT NOW!
IF HE'S TAKING OVER THE SHIP'S SYSTEMS, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE DISCOVERS MOIRA IN THE LAB AND STOPS HER SEARCH FOR A CURE.
AND, IF THERE'S EVEN THE SLIMMEST CHANCE, I WANT TO LIVE.
CALLISTO! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
WOTTA WOMAN! IF ONLY YOU WEREN'T A MUTIE, I'D KISS YOU!
SHUT UP, CONSCIENCE. YOU MAY STILL DESPISE US...
...BUT IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR BELOVED HUMAN RACE, DO IT NOW.
LOVE TO OBLIGE, CALLIE...
...BUT WE'VE GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM.
THE SERVITORS!

NO!
WE'VE COME TOO FAR--
--NOBODY'S GOING TO STOP US! NOBODY!
SHRAK!
HEY, SCOTTIE, CHILL OUT, BUDDY!
CONSCIENCE...
I KNOW...MY LIPS ARE SEALED (NOW IF ONLY I HAD LIPS).
SHRAK!
BUT I THINK I'VE LEARNED A VALUABLE LESSON IN OUR SHORT, BUT OH SO SWEET RELATIONSHIP, MUTIES...


...AND THAT IS I'M NEVER EVER GOING TO GET YOU GUYS ANGRY AGAIN.
I MEAN... SHEESH!
GOOD, CONSCIENCE...
...NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, SHALL WE?
THE MOMENT OF TRUTH! I FEEL TINGLY ALL OVER!
IT ALL SEEMS TO CHECK OUT...
...AND NEITHER MASTER MOLD NOR CONSCIENCE EVER SUSPECTED...
THANK HEAVEN.
AHH, SEAN, ME LOVE...
...I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE...
I PRAY YOU'LL LIVE TO FORGIVE ME.


THIS IS ASKING A LOT, YOU KNOW.
I MEAN, I'M GOING TO LOSE MY INDIVIDUALITY... MY JOI DE VIVE... SO WHY AM I DOING THIS?
I MEAN, NOBILITY WASN'T EXACTLY ONE OF STEPHEN LANG'S BEST TRAITS.
OH, CONFLICT-- TO PLUG IN OR NOT TO PLUG IN.
TO SUFFER THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF ELECTRONIC DISCORPORATION... TO BE ONE WITH CHIPS AND BYTES...
OH, WELL, ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH, DEAR FRIENDS...
WHOA! WHAT A RUSH! MASTER MOLD... WHAT A BIG BRAIN YOU HAVE!
BUT I'M AFRAID THAT I HAVE TO STOP THIS ABSURD PLAN OF YOURS.
CONSCIENCE!
YOU FOOL! GET OUT OF MY MIND BEFORE YOU DESTROY US ALL!
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...

PANTHER'S QUEST
PART XII
STARRING
THE BLACK PANTHER
"South Africa press restrictions prohibit journalists from reporting unauthorized information on actions of the security forces, statements deemed to be subversive and information that could be construed as endangering public safety."
—[redacted]
concerning South Africa.
THE OFFICIAL VERSION
YOU SEE HIM VAN DER MERWE?
THAT'S A FOOL QUESTION, SIR. IF I SAW HIM I'D GIVE HIM A CORDIAL, PARTING WAVE--
-BY EMPTYING THIS CLIP INTO HIM
THE GREAT CAT IS ALERT--
--SENSES QUESTING FOR THE HUNTERS WHO RUN HELTER SKELTER THROUGH THE SUN-SCORCHED STREETS
MIGHT SPOT HIM AT ANY MOMENT TRAPPED MOMENTARILY HELPLESS
A BLOODIED, SCARRED TARGET HELD CRUELLY IN POSITION

SCARS.
THE BLOOD-SLICE WILL LENGTHEN IF YOU LIFT THE LEG UPWARD.
QUELL THE IMPULSE.
TO STRUGGLE FREE THAT WAY WILL ONLY RIP THE TIN SHARDS DEEPER INTO THE CALF.
DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON ME SGT NOT MY FAULT HE BANGED YOU UP AND TOSSED YOU AROUND LIKE A MOTH-EATEN RAG-DOLL
JUST KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR HIM AND KEEP THE MOUTH SHUT CAN YOU AT LEAST DO ME THAT FAVOR?
SCARS.
REMINDERS
EVEN IF THESE TORN FLAPS OF FLESH ARE THE SEVEREST WOUND HE SUSTAINS HERE, HE WILL HAVE MORE SCARS.
IF YOU HASTEN TO FREE THIS LEG FROM THE ROOFING THE BENT METAL WILL GOUGE THROUGH THE SHANK TO BONE.
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY THAN TO TAKE TIME TO PUSH THE JAGGED TIN POINTS CAREFULLY DOWN-WARD.
HIS BLOOD ALREADY COVERS THE TIN.
HIS FINGERS SLIP FRUSTRATINGLY ON THE BLOOD.
TAKE YOUR TIME! HE SCOLDS HIMSELF!

I HEARD YOUR PRETTY SPEECH ABOUT HOW UPSET YOU GET... BUT I'M A #%&!* SIGHT MEANER'N YOU WHEN I'M MAD--
--AND YOU KNOW IT, LIEUTENANT
SCARS.
SOMETIMES HE CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF ONE PARTICULAR SCAR AND THE ENTIRE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT LEFT THE PERMANENT STIGMA--
--HOW IT CAME TO BE--
--RETURNS TO HIM IN A VIVID RECOLLECTION OF TEARING FLESH AND PAIN SEIZING CONTROL--
--PAIN TO BE FOUGHT AS ONE WOULD A PHYSICAL ENEMY.
THE MEMORIES OF OTHER SCARS THEN THREATEN TO RUSH IN ON HIM
HE IS NOT THE GREAT CAT IN THOSE DISHEARTENING MOMENTS-
--MERELY HUMAN
CAREFUL NOW, LAST SWORD
PUSH ASIDE THE FLESH ALREADY TURNED TO CURLYCUED REDDISH PULP.
BITE YOUR LIP UNTIL THE METAL TEARS FREE WITHOUT RIPPING NEW FLESH OR DIGGING DEEPER
FREE?

NOT TOO QUICKLY. LIFT THE LEG EASY
ZWIIIP
JUST ENOUGH ROOM TO MAKE IT!
THAT'S ALL HE NEEDS!
TEST THE LEG. WILL IT TAKE HIS WEIGHT? THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING
YES. CAUSES THE WOUND TO BLEED MORE FREELY BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.
LAND LIGHTLY. KEEP MOVING.
SLIGHT LIMP. HE CAN COPE WITH THAT.
ONLY THING I KNEW ABOUT YOU WAS HOW HARD-HEADED YOU ARE VAN FER HERWE.
FELLAS WILL BE TALKING FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN PUT YOUR HEAD THROUGH A WINDSHIELD AND NOT EVEN DENT YOUR SKULL.
WEIGHT ON THE TIN ROOFING FOR BARELY AN INSTAN" DON'T WANT TO PUSH THROUGH AGAIN.
LOOK!
IT'S HIM! DON'T LOSE HIM!
DON'T..
GONE

SOMETIMES IT NEVER SEEMS TO END.
SARAH SLADE STARES AT THE BROKEN WINDOW MOROSELY.
OCCASIONALLY, SHE BLINKS. OTHER THAN THAT SHE STANDS MOTIONLESS. SHE CANNOT FIND THE MOTIVATION TO MOVE
THERE ARE STILL TRACES OF TEAR GAS IN THE AIR, LITTLE NEEDLE-PRICKS JABBING HER SKIN.
ART OBJECTS

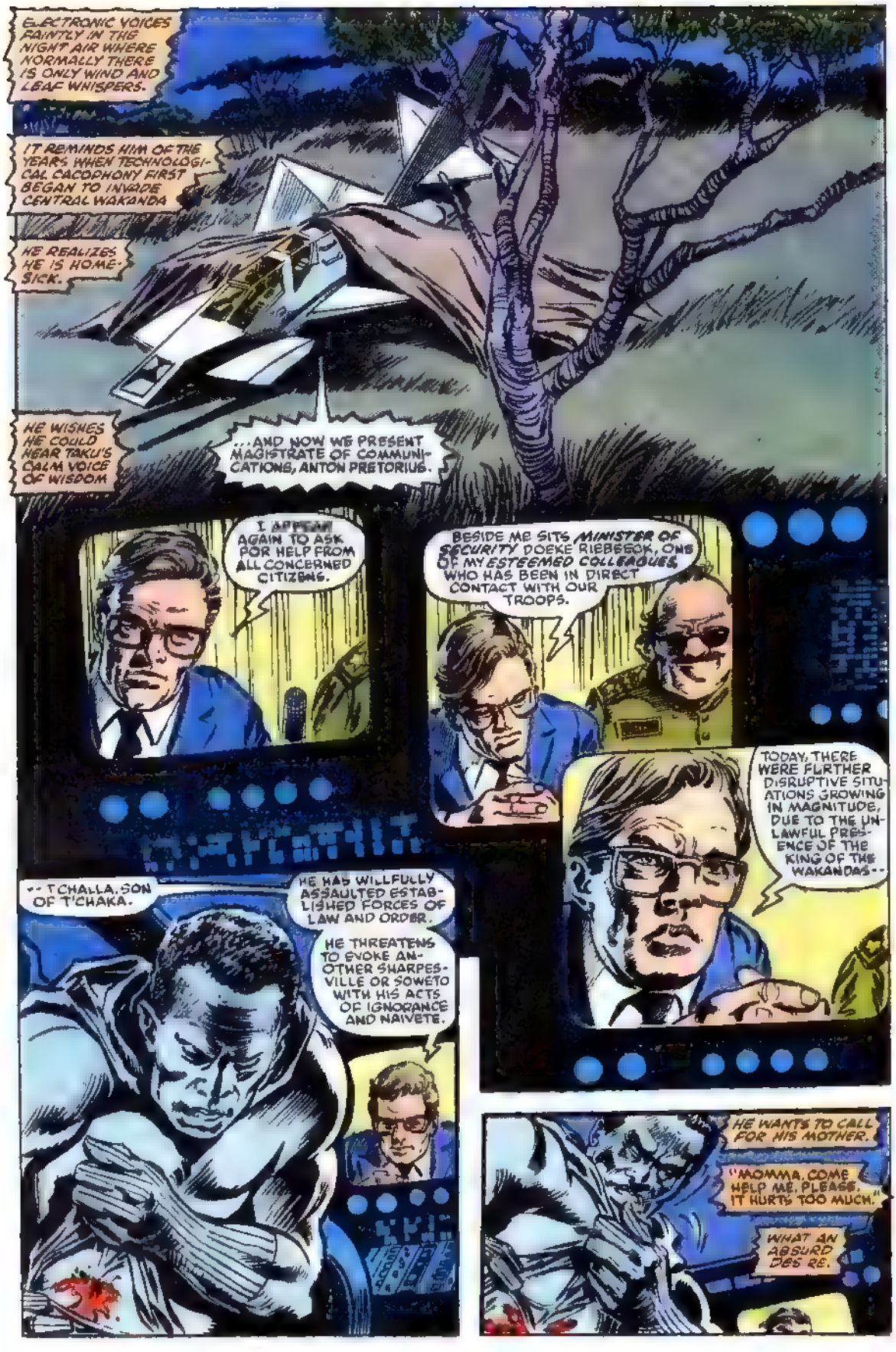
SOMETIMES LIFE SEEMS ONE LONG STRUGGLE. SHE MEANDERS THROUGH EACH DAY, PERPETUALLY SQUINTING HER EYES IN THE DUSTY HARDSHIPS.
THE WINDOW HAS TO BE FIXED. IT'S SUCH A MINOR PROBLEM COMPARED TO THE LARGER CHAOS HER LIFE HAS BECOME--

--AND YET, IT IS THIS SMALL ADDED PROBLEM THAT SEVERELY DEPRESSES HER--
--THE ONE EXTRA BURDEN SHE CANNOT BEAR, NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL.
CREEEEEEEEE

SHE HAS NEVER CONSIDERED HERSELF AN EMOTIONAL PERSON.
LIFE HERE IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO HISTRIONICS, AND YET IT'S NOT ONLY THE LINGERING TEAR GAS THAT MAKES HER EYES WATERY.

HARRH!
WHO--?
PLEASE, DON'T ATTACK
THAT WOULD BE THE ODDEST WEAPON USED AGAINST ME TODAY AND PERHAPS THE ONE THAT WOULD DO ME IN

LOOK AT THAT WINDOW SMASHED TO KINGDOM COME.
YOU KNOW WHAT IT'LL TAKE TO FIX THAT?
I'LL HAVE TO WHINE AND THREATEN. IT'LL TAKE ME A WEEK TO GET SOMEONE TO FIND A REPLACEMENT! NOT TO MENTION THE COST!
WHY'D YOU BREAK MY WINDOW?
I THOUGHT A WINDOW WAS WORTH A BOY'S LIFE
WHAT BOY?
I DIDN'T SEE NO BOY!
ONE MINUTE I'M TALKING TO YOU AND THE NEXT YOU'RE LEAPING THROUGH MY WINDOW.
YOU AND THOSE SOLDIERS, YOU'VE ALL GOT YOUR NERVE.
THIS SHOULD MORE THAN COVER THE COST.
I CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE WHINING AND [illegible] REQUIRED
THERE'S BLOOD ON THIS
IT'S HONEST BLOOD. IT'S MY OWN.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. AND IN MANY WAYS I SUSPECT, NEITHER DOES PATRICK SLADE.
I TOLD YOU PATRICK'S NOT HERE. HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF?
LET'S SUPPOSE YOUR HUSBAND *WERE* HERE AND *COULD* HEAR US!
HE ISN'T.
THEN LET'S TAKE ANOTHER SUPPOSITION. IF HE *SHOULD* RETURN TELL HIM I WILL COME TOMORROW NIGHT WHEN THE SITUATION SHOULD QUIET A BIT
TELL HIM I HAVE THE MONEY HE WANTS, AND I WILL TRY TO HELP HIM. I WILL RELY ON YOUR DISCRETION
WE'LL ALL RELY.. ON EACH OTHER'S DISCRETION
SLAM


ELECTRONIC VOICES FAINTLY IN THE NIGHT AIR WHERE NORMALLY THERE IS ONLY WIND AND LEAF WHISPERS.
IT REMINDS HIM OF THE YEARS WHEN TECHNOLOGICAL CACOPHONY FIRST BEGAN TO INVADE CENTRAL WAKANDA
HE REALIZES HE IS HOMESICK.
HE WISHES HE COULD HEAR TAKU'S CALM VOICE OF WISDOM
...AND NOW WE PRESENT MAGISTRATE OF COMMUNICATIONS, ANTON PRETORIUS.
I APPEAL AGAIN TO ASK FOR HELP FROM ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS.
BESIDE ME SITS MINISTER OF SECURITY DOEKE RIEBEEK, ONE OF MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, WHO HAS BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH OUR TROOPS.
TODAY, THERE WERE FURTHER DISRUPTIVE SITUATIONS GROWING IN MAGNITUDE, DUE TO THE UNLAWFUL PRESENCE OF THE KING OF THE WAKANDAS--
-- T'CHALLA, SON OF T'CHAKA.
HE HAS WILLFULLY ASSAULTED ESTABLISHED FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER.
HE THREATENS TO EVOKE ANOTHER SHARPESVILLE OR SOWETO WITH HIS ACTS OF IGNORANCE AND NAIVETE.
HE WANTS TO CALL FOR HIS MOTHER.
"MOMMA, COME HELP ME. PLEASE. IT HURTS TOO MUCH."
WHAT AN ABSURD DES RE.

MINISTER RIEBEECK, WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT?
THANK YOU, MAGISTRATE PRETORIUS. I AM COMPELLED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE BLACK PANTHER IS TOO DANGEROUS AN INTERLOPER TO BE ALLOWED TO RUN RAMPANT.
HOW RIDICULOUS.
HE CAME HERE TO FIND HER...HELP HER IF SHE NEEDED IT.
FROM ITS INCEPTION, HE HAS KNOWN THERE IS A DUALITY IN THIS QUEST--
--FOR HE HAS WANTED HER TO FIND HIM.
IN THE BEGINNING HE HAD HOPED IT WOULD END WITH HER WORDS OF APPROVAL AND FEARED IT WOULD NOT.
ONE CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER IF THIS FOREIGNER HAS COME INTO OUR MIDST TO STIR UP UNREST AND VIOLENCE--
--PERHAPS AN UNWITTING DUPE FOR COMMUNIST FORCES THAT WOULD LOVE TO UNDERMINE OUR NATIONALIST PARTY.
THE COMMUNISTS WISH TO ENFLAME ANIMOSITY TOWARD AFRIKANERS. THE PANTHER HELPS THEM VOLUNTARILY OR INVOLUNTARILY, BUT EITHER WAY HE MUST BE STOPPED.
ALL OF YOU WHO CAN HEAR MY VOICE CAN HELP PUT AN END TO THE BLACK PANTHER'S ACTS OF BARBARISM.
IN CONCLUSION, REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE OR NEAREST SECURITY FORCES.
LISTEN TO THEM REPORTING FALLACIES AS TRUTH. THE TURBULENT EVENTS IN THIS OPPRESSED TOWNSHIP--
--THE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS HAVE OFTEN MADE HIM FORGET HIS MOTHER. THE PURITY OF THE SINGULAR, INDIVIDUAL QUEST SCATTERED AND OBSCURED BY SOCIETAL CONDITIONS AND DEMANDS
WITH YOUR CONCERTED EFFORTS, WE WILL STOP HIS CAMPAIGN OF BLOODSHED BEFORE IT SPREADS FURTHER.
THANK YOU ALL I KNOW WE WILL WORK TOGETHER ON THIS, AND AS WE ALWAYS HAVE-
--PREVAIL
MORNING IS A LONG TIME AWAY.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

THE FOREST FOR THE TREES
I GUESS WE ALL KNEW EACH OTHER WELL ENOUGH TO NOT KNOW EACH OTHER AT ALL
DENYIN' WHAT'S WHAT IS JUST A GAME PEOPLE PLAY. PEOPLE RICH AND POOR, GOOD AND BAD... EVEN HEROES LIKE--
SWOOOOP
THE FALCON!
WE ALL TRY I GUESS SOME JUST TRY HARDER THAN OTHERS. TRY TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT THAT IS
THE FALCON'S ONE OF THOSE TRY-HARDS.

HE'S BEEN AROUND A LITTLE WHILE, HELPIN' KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CALM...
GET 'IM!
YOU FIRST!
...WHICH ISN'T EASY, CONSIDERIN' OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS HARLEM.
YAK
SAK
FOR A LONG UNDERWEAR TYPE, HE'S ALWAYS KEPT THINGS SIMPLE. HE DON'T CARE MUCH FOR GALACTUS-BASHIN' OR ANYTHIN' LIKE THAT...
I--I'LL--BLOW YOU A-AWAY--
CLICK
AAAGH!
PHOW
SKRAWK
...HE JUST TOOLS AROUND THE ROOFTOPS WITH HIS PET BIRD, REDWING, MAKIN' LIFE A LITTLE SAFER FOR THE REST OF US
FOR MANUEL CARCERO, MAYBE... BUT IT TURNED MY LIFE INSIDE OUT...
SO WHEN HE FOILED A ROUTINE BREAK-IN AT CARCERO'S BODEGA, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD THING, RIGHT?

'COS ONE OF THE GANG MEMBERS WHO FALCON CAUGHT...
DONNIE? DONNIE REMMING?
OH, CRUD.
...JUST HAPPENED TO BE MY SON.
WONK
DONNIE.. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHADDYA THINK MAN? I'M GETTIN' MY COLORS TONIGHT!
WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE PIRATES?
WHEN THEY DECIDED TO HAVE ME.
DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW?
OH, THEY GIVE A RAT'S BUTT RIGHT? THEY'RE TOO BUSY GETTIN' STONED ALLA TIME ANYWAYS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
WHADDAYOU KNOW? NUTHIN'!
NUTHIN'!

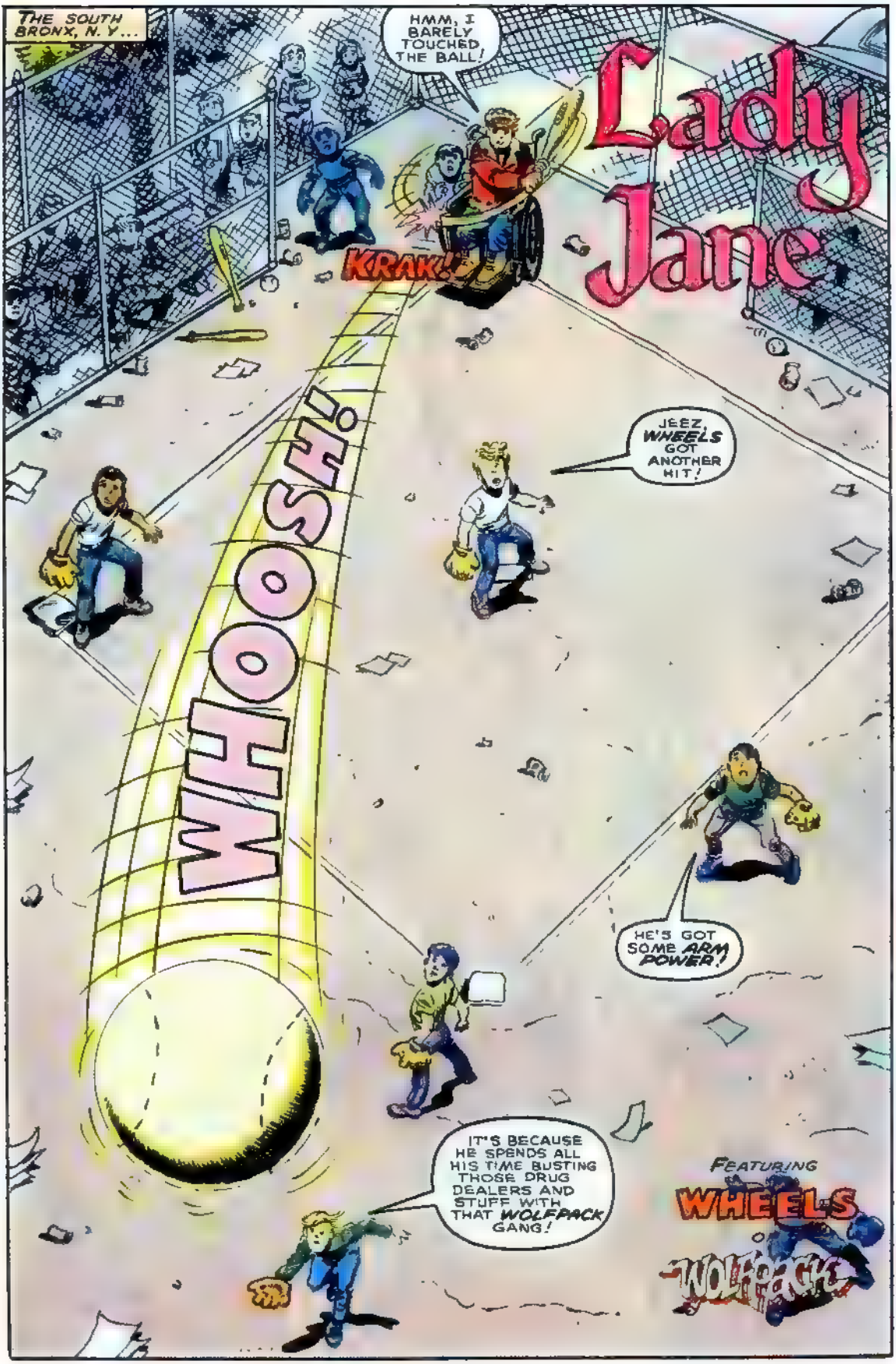
STUPID TIGHT'S 'RE SQUEEZIN' YOUR BRAIN, DUDE!
TURNIN' YOU INTO AN IDIOT!
AND THEN MY SON RAN OFF TO HIDE--FROM HIS FEARS, FROM HIS GUILT... THE THINGS WE ALL HIDE FROM, I GUESS
THE SAME THINGS I'VE BEEN HIDING FROM.
THE KIND OF THINGS THE FALCON TRIES TO HELP PEOPLE LIKE US WITH.
WHAT COULD HE DO?
WHAT RIGHT DOES ONE MAN HAVE TO INTERFERE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES?
BUT WE'D BEEN HIDIN' THE TRUTHS FROM EACH OTHER FOR SO LONG... WHAT WOULD HE DO?
THE NEXT MORNING, THE FALCON WENT AHEAD AND BEGAN TO SHOW US WHAT RIGHT HE HAD...
"COS' WE REALIZED THAT WHETHER DECKED OUT IN HIS LONGJOHNS OR IN SUIT AND TIE AS SOCIAL WORKER SAM WILSON...
"THE FALCON HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE
...BECAUSE HE CARES ABOUT US MORE THAN WE CARE ABOUT OURSELVES.
KNOCK KNOCK

HAL.
SAM! HOW ARE YOU?
COULD BE BETTER. MIND IF I COME IN?
'COURSE NOT!
THIS ISN'T REALLY A SOCIAL VISIT.
SAM, WHAT'S WRONG--?
VICKI--HAL--I CAUGHT DONNIE TRYING TO BREAK INTO CARCERO'S LAST NIGHT. HE WAS WITH THE PIRATES.
NO!
HE KNOWS HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HANG OUT WITH THOSE GANG KIDS!
HE DIDN'T SEEM TO THINK YOU'D CARE. HE ACCUSED YOU BOTH OF BEING ON DRUGS.
NOW THAT'S... SAM--WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER... WHY I'D NEVER--
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT TOO, HAL--
--UNTIL NOW.
WHAT'S IN THE DRAWER, VICKI?
NOW, SAM--WAITAMINNIT--YOU CAN'T--
HE KNEW I WAS ALMOST GLAD ABOUT IT. NO MORE HIDING FROM EACH OTHER

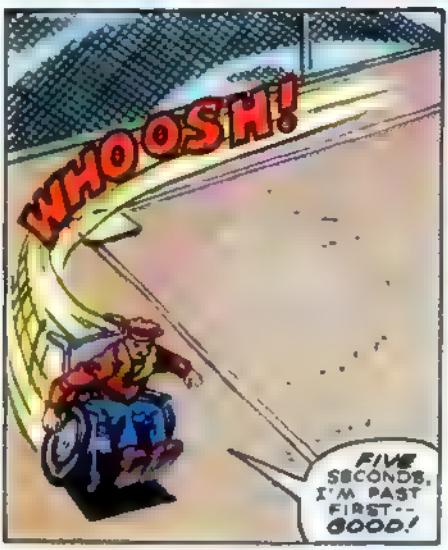
NOW IT WAS ALL OUT IN THE OPEN HE FOUND THE CRACK AND THE PIPES. HE FOUND PAIN...
..AND DESPERATION...
AND BETRAYAL...
SAM--HEY, THAT... UHM MUST BE DONNIE'S JUNK'
NOW THAT HE'S WITH THAT GANG--
SO I PLAYED ALONG WITH HAL AND THEN SAW THAT SAM HAD FOUND SOMETHING ELSE - ANGER'
WHAT CHANCE DOES HE HAVE?!
HOW CAN HE STAY CLEAN IF YOU CAN'T?!
HOW CAN HE LEARN WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG WHEN HE SEES WHAT YOU DO?!
IS THIS WORTH CONDEMNING YOUR SON TO THE STREETS?
SAM, WAIT--WE'LL TRY--JUST LEAVE THE STUFF... PLEASE.
I GUESS IT IS
AND HE WALKED OUT WITH ALL OF OUR SLICK AND SHINY CLUTCHED ANGRILY IN HIS HAND AND LEFT US WANTIN' MORE.

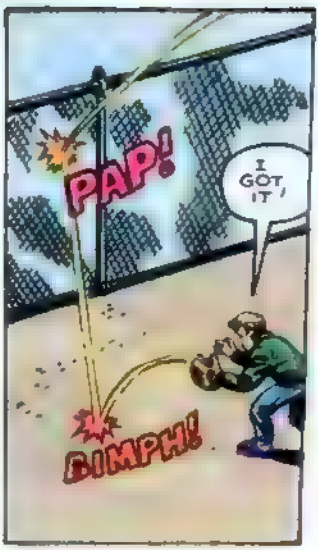
AND KNOWIN' HE WANTED MORE, HE KNEW WHERE HE'D HAVE TO GO TO FIND IT...
...THE CORNER OF LEXINGTON AND 103th STREET.
AN OUTDOOR DRUG MARKET FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS -- AND WORSE, FOR EVERYONE WHO NEEDS...
HEY THERE, MR REMMINS-- THE USUAL?
YEAH... THE USUAL...
TU
MP
UH-OH
DROP THE MONEY AND DISAPPEAR OR I'LL BREAK YOUR WRIST LIKE A PENCIL.
YOU GOT IT
AS FOR YOU, HAL-- I'M GOING TO MAKE SOMETHING ELSE DISAPPEAR...
...YOUR IGNORANCE!!
HERE YOU GO, DONNIE-- WHY DON'T YOU DEAL SOME OUT TO YOUR OLD MAN --
-- WHY DON'T YOU SELL HIM SOME OF THE CRACK YOU HAVE IN YOUR POCKETS AND ADD TO THE WAD YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND?

AND THAT WAS THE FIRST STEP - THE QUIETEST STEP --THE SMALLEST STEP..
AND THE HARDEST ONE WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE, I GUESS.
WE HELD ON TO EACH OTHER LIKE A FAMILY SHOULD AS THE FALCON WATCHED THE PIRATES QUIETLY WALK AWAY
AND HE KNEW AS WELL AS WE DID HOW HARD IT WOULD BE FOR US... BUT TONIGHT, IN MANY WAYS, OUR SMALL STEP WAS A GIANT LEAP.
THE END


THE SOUTH BRONX, N.Y...
HMM, I BARELY TOUCHED THE BALL!
Lady Jane
KRAK!
WHOOSH!
JEEZ, WHEELS GOT ANOTHER HIT!
HE'S GOT SOME ARM POWER!
IT'S BECAUSE HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME BUSTING THOSE DRUG DEALERS AND STUFF WITH THAT WOLFPACK GANG!
FEATURING
WHEELS
WOLFPACK

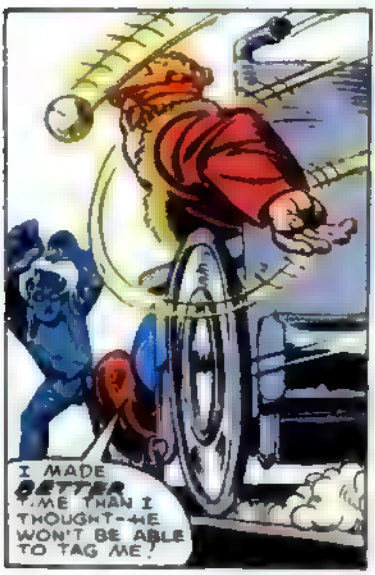
I HIT THE BALL ABOUT 300 FEET, THAT GIVES ME ALMOST 15 SECONDS TO AT LEAST GET TO THIRD!
WHIRRRRRLLLS!
YO, HE'S GONNA MAKE IT HOME!
BET YOU A TEN SPOT HE DON'T!


WHOOSH!
FIVE SECONDS, I'M PAST FIRST-- GOOD!


PAP!
I GOT IT!
BIMPH!

NOT THIS TIME, WHEELS YOU AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT HOME!
WHOMPH!

TWELVE SECONDS, GOING INTO HOME-- IT'S GONNA BE CLOSE!
BIMP!
MAN, THAT KID IS TOO FAST!


I MADE BETTER TIME THAN I THOUGHT-- HE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAG ME!

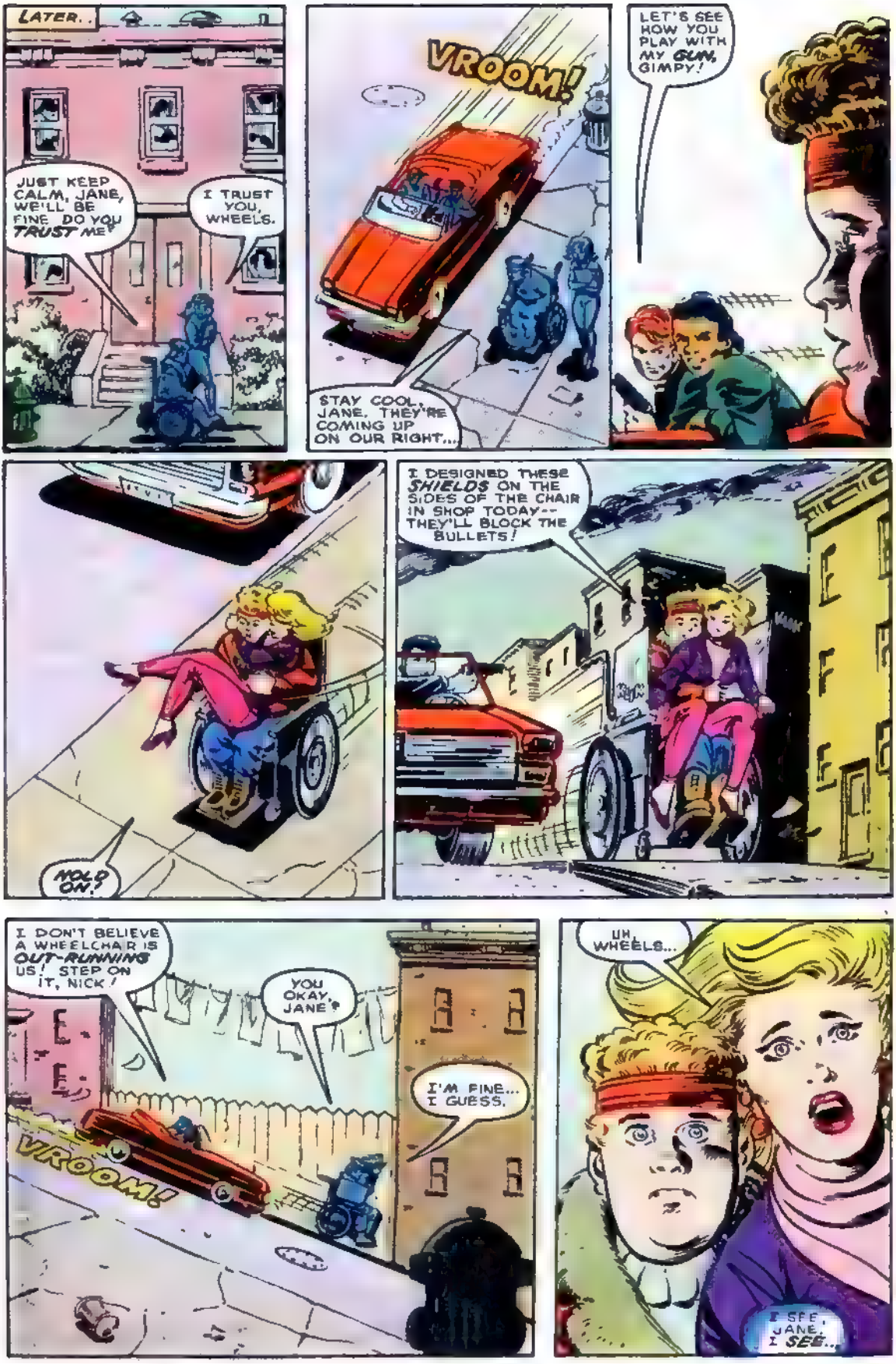
HE'S SAFE! I WON TEN BUCKS!
WHIRR!
NOW I HAVE TO STOP! TIME TO TEST MY LATEST INVENTION

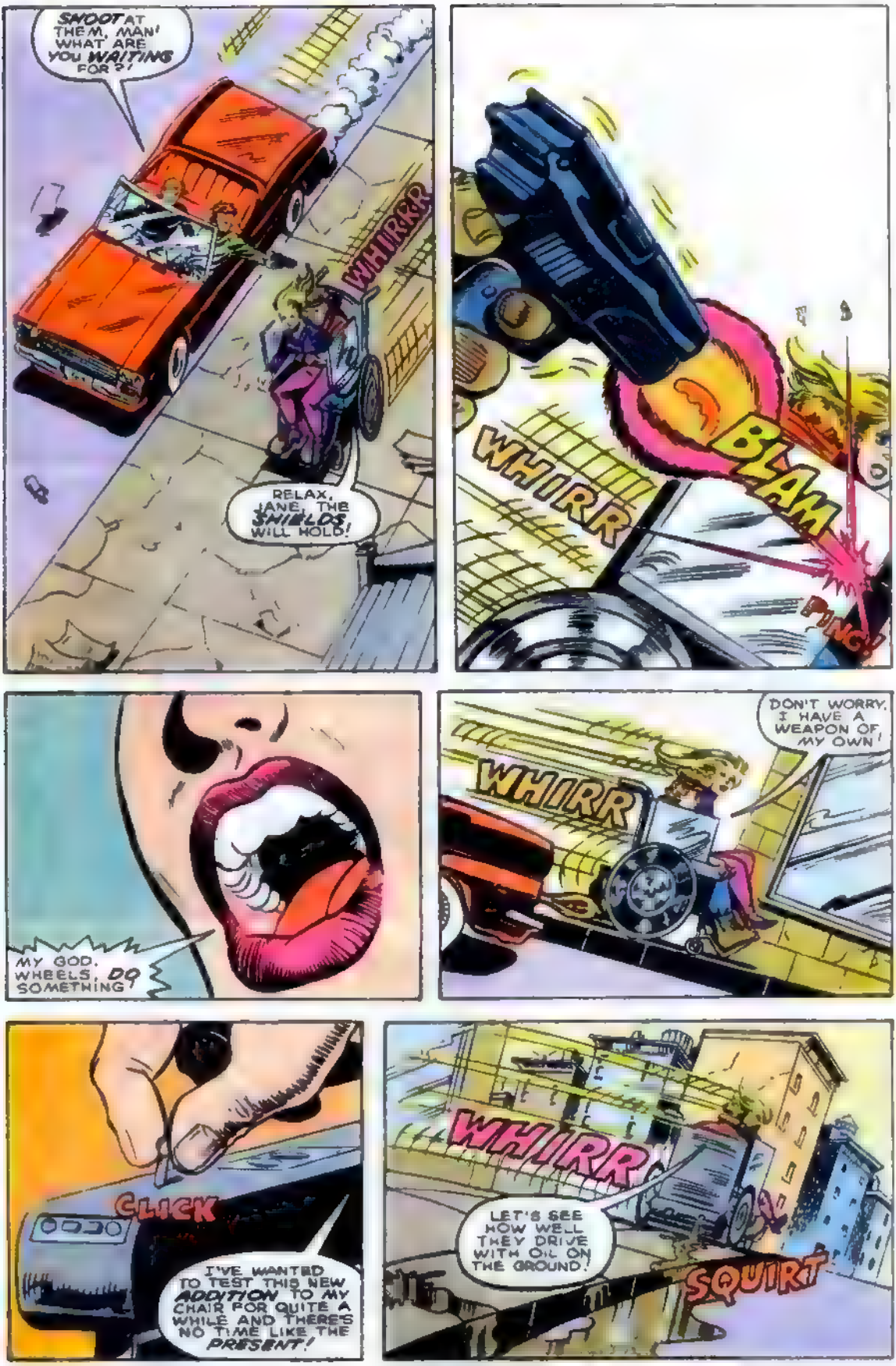
POWER WHEEL-CHAIR BRAKES!
VRILL!

GREAT, I'LL HAVE TO LET THE PACK KNOW ABOUT THIS
WHEW.

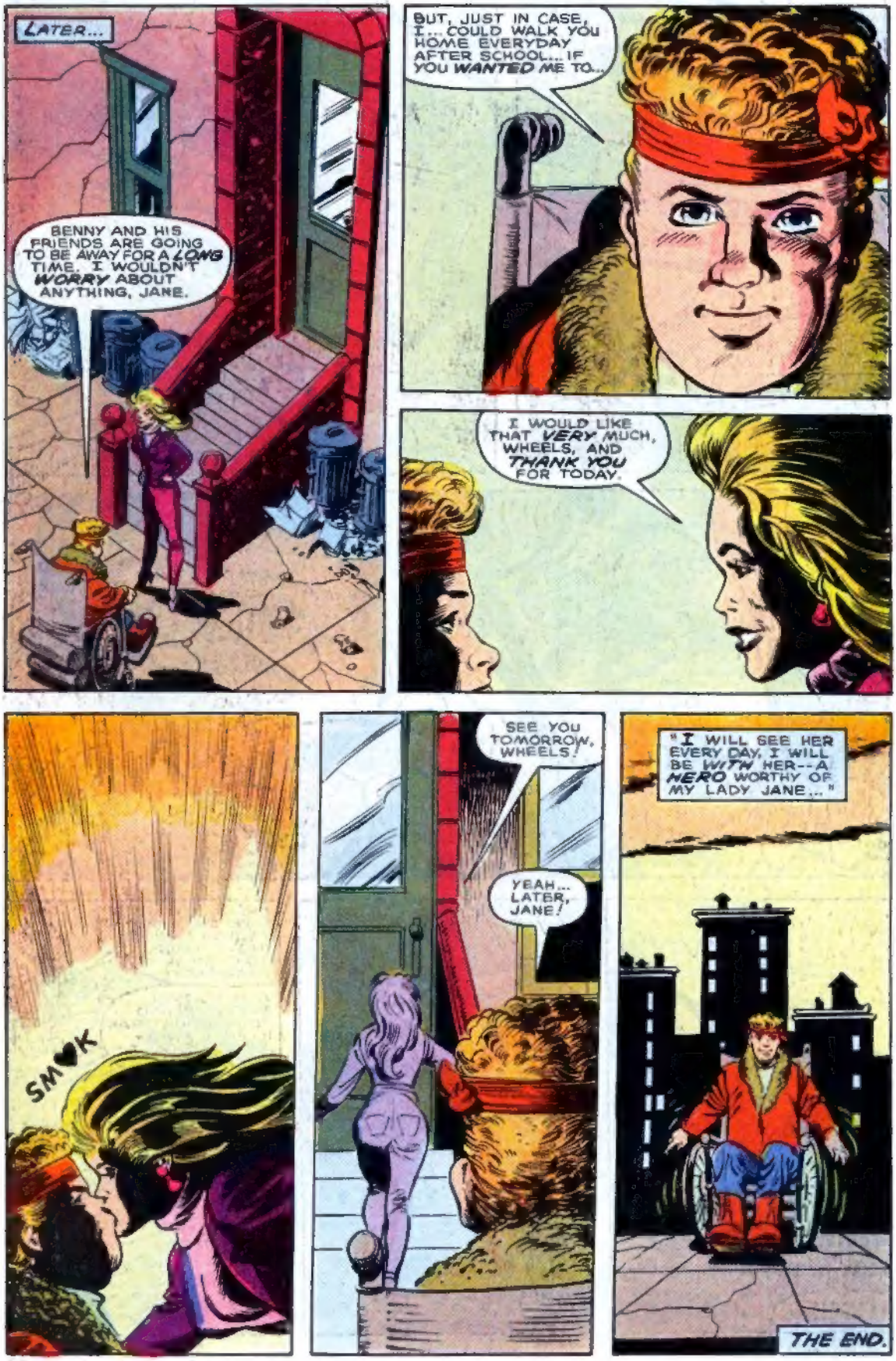
"I SEE HER, STANDING ON THE SIDE. MY GOD, SHE'S BEAUTIFUL..."
HI, WHEELS NICE HIT!
"... EVERY DAY I SEE HER, EVERY DAY I WANT TO TALK TO HER, TO TOUCH HER..."
"... AND EVERY DAY I BACK DOWN .."
"A COWARD UNWORTHY OF MY LADY JANE..."
..DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, JANE? STOP GABBING WITH THE CRIPPLE!
TALK TO ME, BABY - WHY DON'T YOU CALL.
..OR ANSWER MY CALLS? IT'S BEEN A WEEK, JANIE --WHAT'S THE DEAL?
THE DEAL IS THIS, BENNY-- I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH YOU ANY MORE. YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SLIMY DEALER-- IT'S OVER!!
NOTHING IS OVER UNTIL I SAY IT'S OVER!
LET GO OF MY ARM, BENNY!

I ADVISE YOU TO LET THE LADY GO--NOW!
I ADVISE YOU TO BUTT OUT, CRIPPLE BUT? OUT NOW!
BUT IF YOU WANNA PLAY...
...PLAY WITH THIS!
I'D LOVE TO PLAY WITH YOU. BUT I HAVE A DIFFERENT GAME IN MIND...
FOOMPH!
ZZZZZZ
ZZZZZ
...IT'S CALLED AROUND THE WORLD!
THAM!
AFTER SCHOOL--YOU'RE DEAD, WHEELS!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, WHEELS --HE'S DANGEROUS!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM... AND YOU!
MEET ME AFTER SCHOOL...


LATER..
JUST KEEP CALM, JANE, WE'LL BE FINE. DO YOU TRUST ME?
I TRUST YOU, WHEELS.
VROOM!
STAY COOL, JANE. THEY'RE COMING UP ON OUR RIGHT...
LET'S SEE HOW YOU PLAY WITH MY GUN, GIMPY!
HOLD ON!
I DESIGNED THESE SHIELDS ON THE SIDES OF THE CHAIR IN SHOP TODAY-- THEY'LL BLOCK THE BULLETS!
I DON'T BELIEVE A WHEELCHAIR IS OUT-RUNNING US! STEP ON IT, NICK!
YOU OKAY, JANE?
I'M FINE... I GUESS.
VROOM!
UH, WHEELS...
I SEE, JANE, I SEE...


SHOOT AT THEM, MAN! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
WHIRRR
RELAX, JANE, THE SHIELDS WILL HOLD!
BLAM
WHIRR
PING!
MY GOD, WHEELS, DO SOMETHING!
DON'T WORRY, I HAVE A WEAPON OF MY OWN!
WHIRR
CLICK
I'VE WANTED TO TEST THIS NEW ADDITION TO MY CHAIR FOR QUITE A WHILE AND THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!
WHIRR
LET'S SEE HOW WELL THEY DRIVE WITH OIL ON THE GROUND!
SQUIRT

SPLASH
THAT CRAZY GIMP SPILLED SOMETHING ALL OVER THE STREET TURN THE WHEEL, IDIOT!
VROOM
SCREECH
WHIRR
SAY GOODBYE TO BENNY, JANE!
WATCH OUT! WATCH OUT FOR THE--
--POLICE CAR!
WHAT THE--?!
CRASH!
CHECK IT OUT, ROY! THEY GOT ENOUGH DRUGS IN THE TRUNK TO OPEN A PHARMACY!
ADD TO THAT SPEEDING, AND POSSESSION OF AN ILLEGAL FIRE-ARM, THIS ONE I GOTTA HEAR...


LATER...
BENNY AND HIS FRIENDS ARE GOING TO BE AWAY FOR A LONG TIME. I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING, JANE.
BUT, JUST IN CASE, I... COULD WALK YOU HOME EVERYDAY AFTER SCHOOL... IF YOU WANTED ME TO...
I WOULD LIKE THAT VERY MUCH, WHEELS, AND THANK YOU FOR TODAY.
SMOOK
SEE YOU TOMORROW, WHEELS!
YEAH... LATER, JANE!
"I WILL SEE HER EVERY DAY, I WILL BE WITH HER--A HERO WORTHY OF MY LADY JANE..."
THE END.

MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

People at Marvel,

Less than a year ago, I wasn't really familiar with comics (actually not at all). It was friends of mine that introduced me to the comic world. They told me to buy a comic that was new so I wouldn't have to spend a whole lot of money at once to catch up. Anyway, I chose MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS... first of all because it was new, and secondly because I didn't know which one to buy!!! Well, the comic is now up to #15, and I don't regret buying it. I really enjoy the comic and never miss an issue. Also, the idea of having four stories in one book is a terrific one! I never suspected that comics would take control of my life, but yours has. Oh well, keep up the excellent work...

Nicolas Lupien
(address withheld by request)

Wow, it's great to have you aboard, Nicolas. We hope you stay with us for a long time to come!

Dear Presenters,

This comic continues to amaze me in the fact that it has managed to maintain such a high standard of consistency while being published on a bi-weekly basis. A few comments on issue #15:

COLOSSUS: Ann Nocenti continues to provide the reader with well thought out stories. As we draw towards a conclusion of this story the intensity continues to build. Although I enjoy the art on this story, I still feel that it is a bit too cartoonish for this stories' content. The art would've been best suited for a tongue-in-cheek type of story.

BLACK PANTHER: I can't recall the last time I've seen such a collection of top talent in a single story. McGregor's words are very hard hitting, and are complemented by the art combo of Colan/Palmer. Rosen's lettering is clean, clear and crisp. The colors by Glynis Oliver are as masterful and vibrant as ever. After only three installments, this story is the best to appear in this title.

MARVEL GIRL: While I feel the market is becoming super-saturated with mutants, this story was tolerable. Whatever you do, don't make this title a mutant book. One mutant storyline per issue is about all I can handle. When will we see a non-mutant lead feature? I'm waiting...

RED WOLF: I have to admit that I was a big fan of Red Wolf way back when. I'm glad to see that someone is interested in running non-traditional superhero stories in this title. I would have to say that after reading the Red Wolf story, a Western style feature would work well in this title from time to time. With the exception of the Black Panther artwork, this story was the best drawn this issue. Saltares and McKenna work well together. I hope that the Red Wolf story is well received so that we can see more of him in the near future.

Keep the no ad format, it makes for a very easy read. After fifteen issues, I am glad that you were finally able to produce a letters page. I hope that we'll see that on a regular basis also!

Charles S. Novinskie
PO Box 1323
Grand Junction, CO 81502

As long as you keep writing, Charles (and everyone else does too!), we'll try our best to have a letters page in every issue. We're also glad you liked the Red Wolf story. Judging from the response of our readers (including the next letter), you will see more of him in the future. Also, why don't you tell us who you'd like to see as the lead feature in this book? We aim to please here in the pages of MCP!

Dear Terry,

I just finished the Red Wolf story in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #15 and am now convinced that these one issue stories have got to stop. To me, eight pages just isn't enough for a complicated character like Red Wolf. Fabian Nicieza should have had much more space with which to work! I can just imagine what a great tale he would have woven if he had another eight or sixteen pages to show us the lives of William Talltrees, Owayodata the Wolf God, and the Bengal. And who wouldn't want to see some more of that superb artwork from Javier Saltares and Mark McKenna. Javier tells a story beautifully and Mark enhances the great work. That splash page alone was worth the price of the comic. These guys simply need more room to work their craft, Okay?

Anyway, the rest of the book was really good too. The Colossus and Black Panther stories are very enjoyable to me, and the Marvel Girl story was good too. I think Bobbie Chase is a really good writer, too. I enjoyed her other story in MCP (Mr. Fixit, I believe) as well as the STAR BRAND ANNUAL she wrote a few years back for the New Universe. Let's see more of her stuff in the future. And give her a multi-parter too, she deserves it!

Victor DuPree
Fresno, CA

Boy, you're gonna give Bobbie and Fabian swelled heads with talk like that, Victor. We have enough trouble prying Fabian into the office now when he wants to discuss a new idea. But seriously now (as esteemed writer/comedian Scott Lobdell would say), it would be difficult to make all of our stories multi-parters simply because we have so many characters to go through in this book. If we increased the length of the Red Wolf/Bengal story to, say, three issues, you might not have been able to read stories like the now classic Namorita or El Aguila sagas. These guys would never see the light of day if all of our stories were big epics!

Dear Guys,

I'm a very big fan of all the members of the X-MEN and X-FACTOR. I'm really glad to hear that many of the X-Men will be seen in the main feature of MCP.

I loved the art and writing of Wolverine and what I've seen of Colossus. In the future I would like to see the Angel starring here. I'd really like to see how Angel is coping with his transformation into Archangel. How does he deal with his teammates now? Or with himself for that matter?

Please consider squeezing Angel in after Cyclops, okay? I think other readers want to know the full story as much as I. 'Nuff said.

Michael Saldutti
(no address on letter)

Sorry, Michael, but right now Havok is already underway so we couldn't put Angel in right after Cyclops. We hope you're enjoying this story, though. Your Archangel idea does sound like a very interesting one, though, so don't be surprised if you see him in these pages in the near future.

Dear Marvel,

Being reared on the comics of the early/mid-seventies as I was, I've always had a soft spot in my heart for a certain type of comic. AMAZING ADVENTURES, HEROES FOR HIRE, JUNGLE ACTION, and the Monster books were my favorites. A lot of critics now view the seventies as the "plastic age of comics". That may be somewhat true, but I remember some gems that stand up to anything the exotic eighties can crank out. The greatest saga that comes to mind is the incredible "Panther's Rage" (JUNGLE ACTION #6-#17). Most comic readers today are too young to remember that series, some other readers may have forgotten it. But it sticks in my mind as a true, time tested masterpiece.

Now, Don McGregor is back with another time-tested veteran, Gene Colan, to give us a Black Panther maxi-series for the eighties, "Panther's Quest". Whether this will live up to the "Rage" saga or not remains to be seen, but my main objective is just to say thanks for not forgetting the true Black Panther. Also, thank you, Don for coming back and writing it. Long live T'Challa!!

Darrell Waller
201 Hackberry #318
Clute, TX 77531

Thank *you*, Darrell, for sticking with us all these years!

BOW

BLACK PANTHER
BLOODIED—— TORN & WITH ALL OF SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST HIM!
THE FALCON CRACKS DOWN ON CRACK!
Wheels
A LOVE STORY—— IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL TRADITION!
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